



PLUS: DEMON · PHANTOM LADY · WILD DOG
PHANTOM STRANGER · HUMAN TARGET

ACTION

COMICS WEEKLY

NO. 641

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CAN \$1.85

U.K. 80p



Campbell's Can-Do Puzzle Page

Something fun to do for all
kinds of Campbell's Kids.™

What kind of Campbell's Kid™ are you?

1.

Are you a tricky kid?

By moving only one can at a time, turn this pyramid into an upside-down pyramid in just two moves.



4.

Are you a speedy kid?

See how long it takes you to unscramble the name of this favorite Campbell's® Soup. Less than a minute and you must be hungry!



2.

Are you an artistic kid?

Connect the dots to draw the first thing you need for making a bowl of soup.



5.

Are you a sharp kid?

Only two of these cans are exactly alike. See if you can pick them out.



3.

Are you an amazing kid?

Which path will get you through the maze to the can of Campbell's® Soup?



6.

Are you a clever kid?

Find three things wrong on this can.



- _____
- _____
- _____

M'm! M'm!
Good!®

ANSWERS

1. SOLID mislabeled.
wrong color label.
should be yellow.
chicken label of
Campbell's Kid.

2. C
3. Chicken Noodle-Soup
4. Camp B and H

5. It's a cat's paw.
6.

Look for more fun and games inside the labels of Campbell's® Kids soups.

©1988 Campbell Soup Company



WELCOME
TO
HELL

ALAN GRANT - writer MARK PACELLA - painter

BILL WRAY - inker
JOHN COSTANZA - letter
TATJANA WOOD - colorist
DAN RASPLER - editor

64446

I SHOULD HAVE
KNOWN.

LEFAY!
THIS
BELONGS
TO YOU!

WAK!

I THOUGHT MORGAN
LEFAY'S MAGIC WAS TOO
STRONG FOR ETORGAN. I
THOUGHT THE DEMON
NEEDED ME...

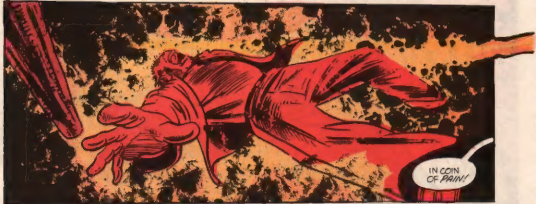
JACK KIRBY'S

THE
DEVON

TO SAVE HIM.

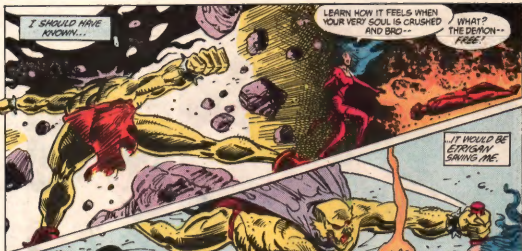
MORTAL SCUM! YOU DARE TO
ASSAULT THE WITCH-QUEEN
OF THE NETHER WORLDS?

FOR THAT
YOU'LL PAY
DEAR...



IN CON
OF PAIN!

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I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN...

LEARN HOW IT FEELS WHEN YOUR VERY SOUL IS CRUSHED AND BRO--

WHAT? THE DEMON-- FREE!

IT WOULD BE ETRIGAN SAVING ME.

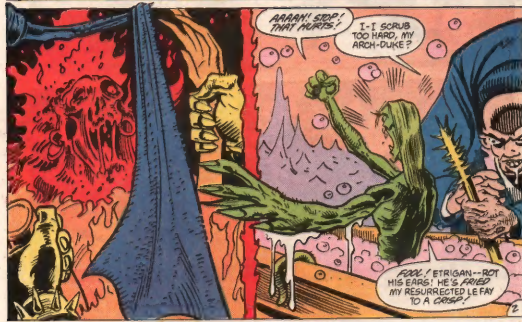


FREE? THAT'S NOT THE WORD THAT I WOULD USE! NOT MINE TO PICK, OR YET TO CHOOSE. I'M SHACKLED-- TRAPPED IN HUMAN MIRE--



STILL-- FREE TO LIGHT YOUR FUNERAL PYRE!

FREE TO FEED AS FLAME LICKS HIGHER--



AAAAH! STOP! THAT HURTS!

I-I SCORB TOO HARD, MY ARCH-DUKE?

FOOL! ETRIGAN-- ROT HIS EARS! HE'S FRIED MY RESURRECTED LEFAY TO A CRISP!



WHAT'S THAT? YOU LIKE MY TOILET WATER? WHY, THANK YOU.

LURGO-- GIVE HIM A WHIFF, WHY DON'T YOU?



GO ON, YOU OLD GOAT! SQUEEZE-- AND RIP YOUR STUPID FACE OFF! HEN HEN HEN!



YOU KNOW, I HAVEN'T WORN THIS FOR-- OH, IT MUST BE AT LEAST A MILLENNIUM. IT'S NOT OFTEN I HAVE AN EXCUSE TO DRESS UP.



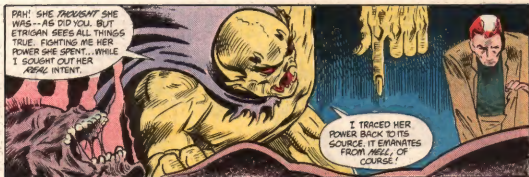
LURGO-- ARRANGE A FITTING RECEPTION FOR MISS MARK AND THE BLIND MAN. NOTHING TOO GORY, MIND-- NO HEART ATTACK STUFF. I NEED THEM *INTACT*!



YOU FOOL! YOU DID NOT HAVE TO BE AFRAID. I HAD NO WISH-- NOR NEED-- FOR AID!

BUT-- SHE WAS KILLING YOU! DRAINING YOUR POWER...

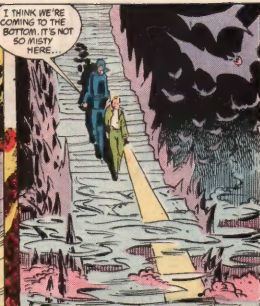






LIES OR NOT, I CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE.

TO HELL, THEN,
DEMON. JUST...
SHOW ME THE
WAY.



I THINK WE'RE
COMING TO THE
BOTTOM. IT'S NOT
SO MISTY
HERE...



CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING
YET, GLENDA? UNLESS
MY EARS DECEIVE ME, I
CAN HEAR DISTANT
VOICES...



OHMYGOD!

HELP ME!

MERCY

PLEASE!

HELPPP!



PEOPLE--THEY--
THEY--

I CAN
FEEL IT, GLENDA!
MY LORD! THE
SLIPPING--THE
TORMENT--



THE... THE PATH LEADS
RIGHT THROUGH THE MIDDLE
OF IT! KEEP HOLD, RANDU...

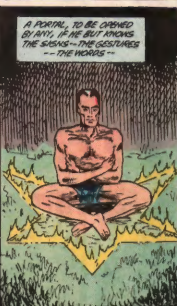
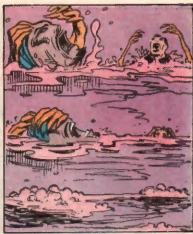


HELP MEE! FOR PITY'S
SAKE... PLEASE--PLEASE!

OH, RANDU. HE--
HE'S IN AGONY!

I CAN'T
JUST WALK
ON BY--

NO,
GLENDA!
DON'T--





BRAVO!
BRAVO!



MY GUESTS ARE ALL
BUT KNOCKING AT MY DOOR,
RUNNING TO MY ALTAR LIKE
LAMBS TO THE GUTTING
HOOK!

COUNT YOUR
TIME IN HOURS,
MERLIN!

FIVE DEATHS--FIVE STOLEN
POWERS! AMH, I'VE WAITED
LONG FOR THIS. HELL'S
MINIONS WILL SOON HAVE A
NEW TUNE TO SCREAM TO--
AND A NEW PIPER PLAYING IT!

OOOH! I JUST LOVE
IT WHEN A PLAN COMES
TOGETHER!

TO BE CONTINUED...

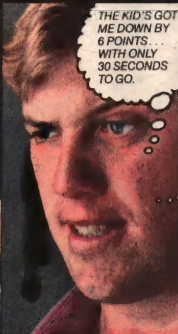
John Elway's **QUARTERBACK**



KICKS OFF IN HOMES ACROSS AMERICA

The Story so far...

JOHN ELWAY AND YOUNG VIDEO WIZ DANNY WIMPASINGER ARE ENGAGED IN A COLOSSAL STRUGGLE FOR THE WIMPASINGER HOUSEHOLD SUPERBOWL CHAMPIONSHIP.



THE KID'S GOT ME DOWN BY 6 POINTS... WITH ONLY 30 SECONDS TO GO.

THE WILY VETERAN LOOKS OVER DANNY'S DEFENSIVE ALIGNMENT AND CHECKS-OFF TO A SCREEN PASS.



I'VE GOT HIM NOW!

I'VE GOT HIM NOW!



DINNERTIME, BOYS.



LOOK FOR MY NEW NINTENDO ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM GAME WHEREVER YOU FIND TRADEWEST'S OTHER BLOCK BUSTER HIT, DOUBLE DRAGON™

JOHN AND YOUNG DANNY ARE PLAYING THE NEW "GAME-ACTION" VIDEO GAME FROM TRADEWEST, JOHN ELWAY'S QUARTERBACK!™ WITH LINE-OF-SCRIMMAGE REALISM THAT PUTS YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GAME LIKE NO OTHER GAME CAN. YOU CALL THE PLAYS, YOU BEAT THE BLITZ, YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN.



OUR NAME GUARANTEES A GREAT GAME.

TRADEWEST

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**NEXT: THE ACTION
CONTINUES (AFTER DINNER)**



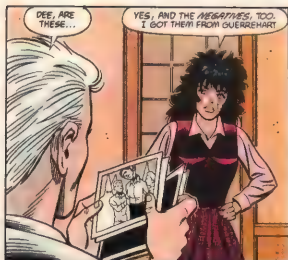
OKAY, DADDY,
EXPLAIN THIS!

ATTORNEY GENERAL

PHANTOM LADY M

LEN STRAZEWSKI
WRITER
CHUCK AUSTEN
PENCILER
GARY MARTIN
INKER
JOHN COSTANZA
LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE
COLORIST
MARK WAID
EDITOR

Lady Loot



DEE, ARE THESE...

YES, AND THE NEGATIVES, TOO. I GOT THEM FROM GUERREHART



WELL... SHUFFLE... I ALWAYS SAID YOU WERE QUITE A GIRL...



MY GOD, DEE, WHAT...

IT'S NOT IMPORTANT BUT YOU SHOULD SEE THE OTHER GUY!



YOU'RE SO MUCH LIKE YOUR MOTHER... SO RESOURCEFUL.

DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT! EXPLAIN THESE PICTURES! WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?



ALL RIGHT, DEAR, I WILL.



THESE PEOPLE ARE THE KIL KERRY KILANSMEN. THIS IS ME, AND THAT... IS THE LYING OF A POOR INNOCENT BLACK MAN.

IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO...
WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG AND
STUPID... AND I WORSHIPPED
MY BROTHER BEAU

BROTHER!
I DIDN'T KNOW
THAT I HAD
AN UNCLE!

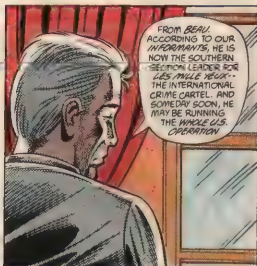
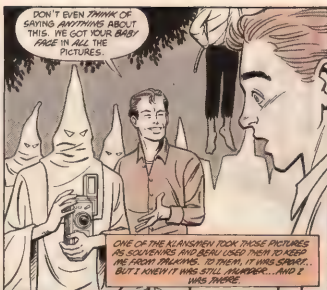
SO BOY, YOU LIKE WHITE
WOMEN, DO YOU? WE'LL
SHOW YOU WHAT WE DO
WITH BOYS LIKE YOU!

NO, DON'T DO
THAT! BEAU,
STOP!

NO, BEAU! YOU SAID
YOU WERE JUST GOING
TO SCARE HIM!

OOF!

DON'T BE A
BABY! THIS IS
THE WAY MEN
TAKE CARE OF
BUSINESS.





I RAN AWAY SOON
AFTER THE... LYNCHING
... TO NEW ORLEANS
AND JOINED THE
NAVY... ANYTHING TO
GET AWAY FROM THAT
HORRIBLE PLACE...
AND THAT HORRIFYING
MEMORY



I WAS STATIONED IN EUROPE AND
IT CHANGED MY LIFE... TAUGHT
ME RESPECT FOR OTHER CULTURES,
LEARNING AND THE ARTS.



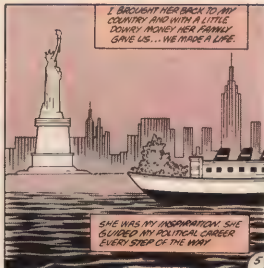
THAT'S WHERE I
MET YOUR MOTHER... DIANA. SHE WAS ON VACATION
FROM THAT LITTLE FRENCH COLLEGE WHERE I SENT YOU.
SHE WAS THE SMARTEST, MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
I HAD EVER SEEN.



I DON'T KNOW
WHAT SHE SAW
IN ME. I WAS
STILL SUCH A HICK.
BUT BEING
AROUND HER
CHANGED ME

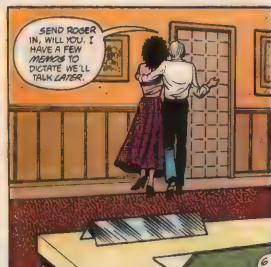
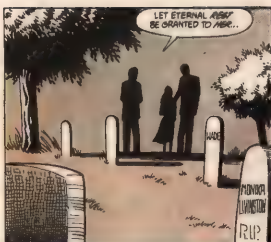


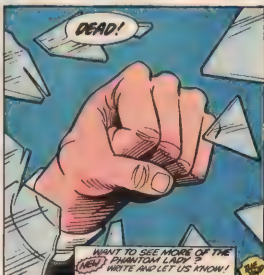
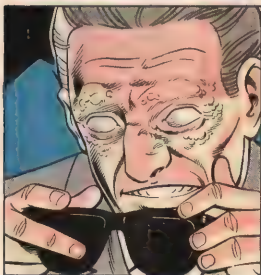
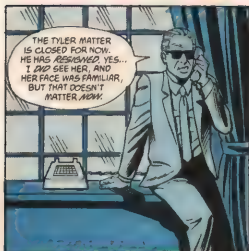
I WAS SURPRISED WHEN
SHE SAID YES AND WE WERE
MARRIED. JUST AFTER SHE
GRADUATED. I LOVED HER
VERY MUCH, DEE, BUT I
GUESS YOU KNOW THAT.



I BROUGHT HER BACK TO MY
COUNTRY AND WITH A LITTLE
DOWRY MONEY HER FAMILY
GAVE US... WE MADE A LIFE.

SHE WAS MY INSPIRATION. SHE
GUIDED MY POLITICAL CAREER
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY





**BUBBLE BOBBLE IS DINO-MIGHT!
(FOR YOUR NINTENDO ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM)**

WHAM!

Bubble Bobble is totally addictive action. It's the Number One game in Europe for over 3 months. Scramble over 100 screens of laughs



as your brontosaurus buddies, Bub and Bob, blow you away with endless action. If you're lookin' for fun, these dudes are the one.

GRAB THESE OTHER EXPLOSIVE ARCADE HITS FROM TAITO!



2 A.M. IS NO TIME TO BE ALONE IN THE SUBWAY AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT WHY... This is the original arcade hit. One of the hottest games in Europe. Think to the arcade-quality graphics of this fast-paced street-style Karate brawl. Scream through Renegade's multiple levels of play and see what real action is all about.



NOBODY EVER SAID IT WOULD BE EASY YOU'VE GOT TO FLY YOUR WORLD WAR II P-40 FIGHTER ON A TOP SECRET MISSION. Take the arcade's meanest air battle home for keeps. Strap in for explosive high-flying action. Hold on for your life as you soar through incredible graphics and spellbinding sound. You'll never want to land.



TAKE NO PRISONERS. TERRORISTS HAVE TAKEN THEIR LAST HOSTAGE. SOMEONE HAS TO TEACH THE TERRORISTS WHAT TERROR IS ALL ABOUT. Take the world's best arcade game home. Mind-blowing arcade quality graphics take you behind enemy lines to destroy terrorists and save helpless hostages. One play and you'll know why it's number 1.

Taito's hot line of arcade games for the Nintendo Entertainment System™ is one fast-action classic after another. And now you can get in on all the action, too.

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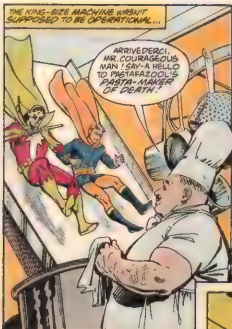
THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN.

TAITO

For all other video games, Taito has been a leader in the arcade for over 30 years and that's why you can count on Taito to bring you the hottest games available for your Nintendo Entertainment System.

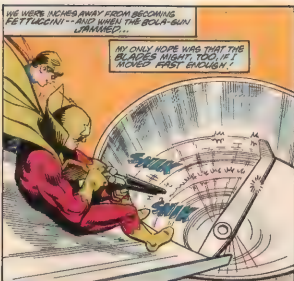
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THE KING-SIZE MACHINE WASN'T
SUPPOSED TO BE OPERATIONAL...

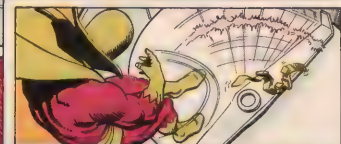


ARRIVEDERCI,
MR. COURAGEOUS
MAN! SAY-A HELLO
TO PASTARAZOOL'S
PASTA-MAKER
OF DEATH!

WE WERE INCHES AWAY FROM BECOMING
FETTUGGINI -- AND WHEN THE BOLA-GUN
JAMMED...



MY ONLY HOPE WAS THAT THE
BLADES MIGHT, TOO, IF I
MOVED FAST ENOUGH!



THE RESULTS WERE
WORSE THAN I'D
HOPED...

BUT BETTER
THAN I'D
FEARED!



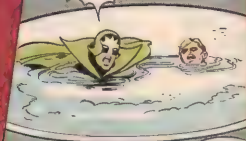
THE **HUMAN
TARGET**

THE POW! ZAP! WHAM! CONTRACT™

MARK WAID - SCRIPT * CURT SWAN - PENCILS * DICK GIORDANO - INKS * ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERS
BOB LEROSE - COLORS * BRIAN AUGUSTYN - EDITOR

AS THE RINGING IN MY EARS SUBSIDED,
I ASKED MYSELF AGAIN... WHAT KIND OF
IDIOT LEADING MAN WOULD CONTRACT
TO DO HIS OWN STUNTS?

THE SAME KIND, I SUPPOSE... WHO WOULD
APPEAR IN A TV SHOW CALLED COURAGEOUS
MAN AND MINUTE LAD...



HANG
ON
CHUM!

CM-- CAN'T GET
A FOOTING IN
THIS YOGURT!

BELIEVE
IT OR NOT,
CHANCE...

... THAT NEARLY KILLED
US... THE DEATHTRAPS MAY
LOOK SILLY-- BUT THAT
WAS THE THIRD TO
MALFUNCTION! THEY'RE
NO JOKE ANYMORE!

IF YOU SUSPECT
SABOTAGE, BILL,
WHY NOT QUIT
THE SHOW?

... NOW
MINUTE
LAD!



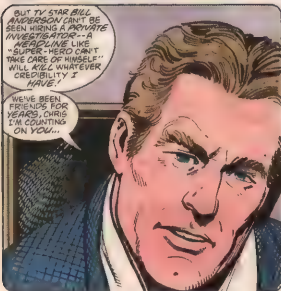
I HAVE TO HONOR MY
FINAL-SEASON CONTRACT
IN FULL-- BUT THEN I
CAN LEAVE CLEANLY,
AND NOW--

-- BEFORE WE DO ENOUGH
SHOWS TO PUT ME INTO PERMANENT
SYNDICATION WEARING THAT
MONKEY SUIT! THE STEREOTYPING
WOULD KILL MY CAREER!



BUT TV STAR BILL
ANDERSON CAN'T BE
SEEN HIRING A PRIVATE
INVESTIGATOR-- A
HEADLINE LIKE
"SUPER-HERO CAN'T
TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF"
WILL KILL WHATEVER
CREDIBILITY I
HAVE!

WE'VE BEEN
FRIENDS FOR
YEARS, CHRIS.
I'M COUNTING
ON YOU...



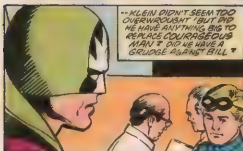
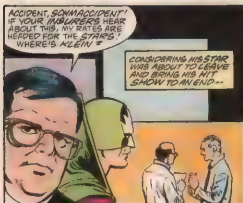
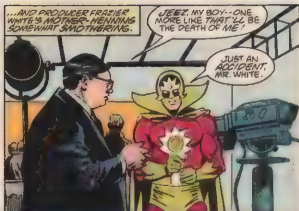
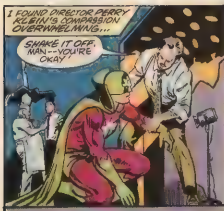
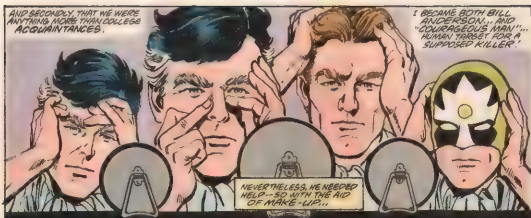
... TO CRACK THIS CASE
FROM THE INSIDE-- AND
FIND OUT WHO'S AFTER
ME!

[SIGH] OKAY,
BILL... I'LL BE IN
TOUCH.

ANDERSON PRESUMED
FAR TOO MUCH.

FIRST THAT HE WASN'T SIMPLY
PARANOID-- READY YOGURT!





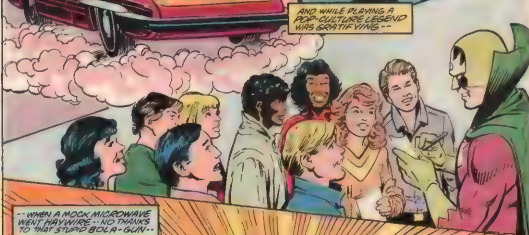
THE FIRST WEEK WENT ALL RIGHT. FILMING AN ADVENTURE SHOW
BUILT AROUND CLIFFHANGERS AND DEATHTRAPS WAS GRUELING
AND DIDN'T LEAVE ME MUCH TIME TO DECIDE --



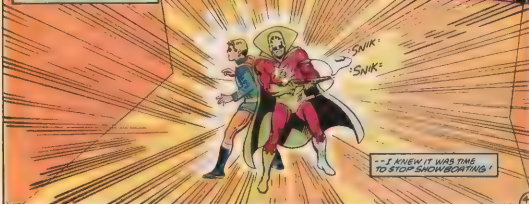
--WHETHER MALFUNCTIONING
EQUIPMENT WAS THE RESULT
OF SHODDY ENGINEERING...
OR SOMETHING MORE
MENACING!

FWOOSH!

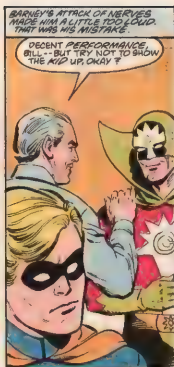
AND WHILE PLAYING A
POP-CULTURE LEGEND
WAS GRATIFYING --

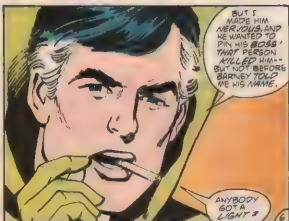
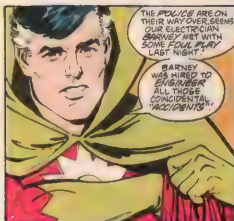
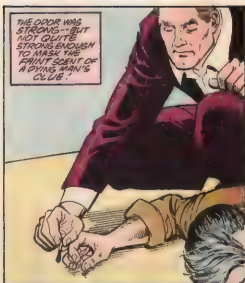
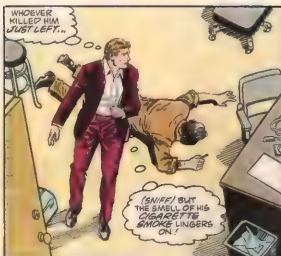


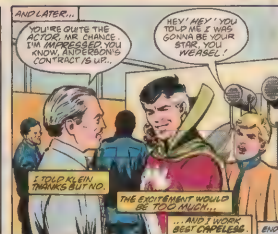
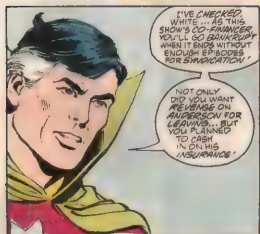
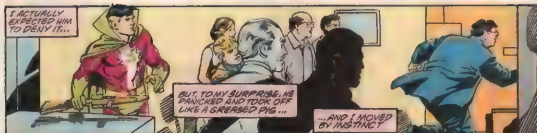
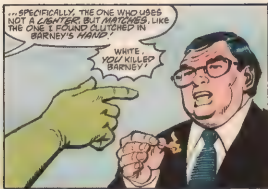
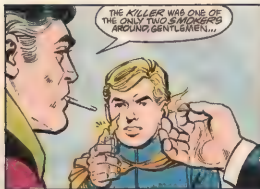
-- WHEN A MOCK MICROWAVE
WENT HAYWIRE -- NO THANKS
TO THAT STUPID BOLA-GUN --



-- I KNEW IT WAS TIME
TO STOP SHOWBOATING!



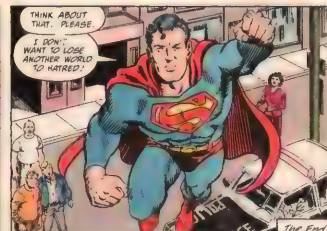
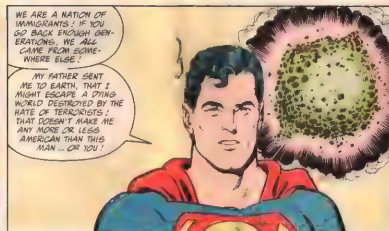
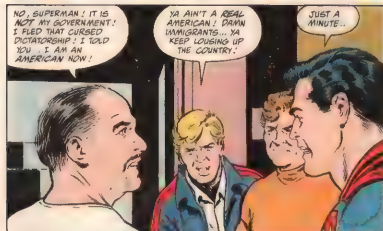
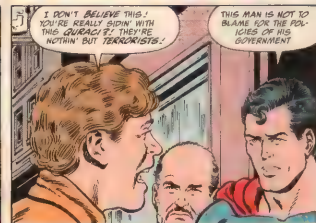
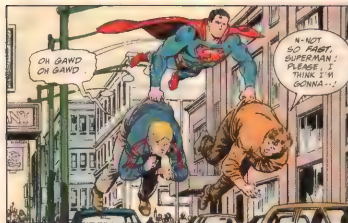
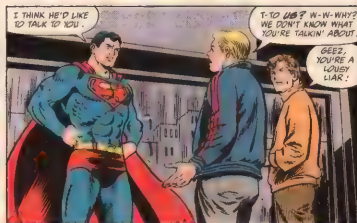
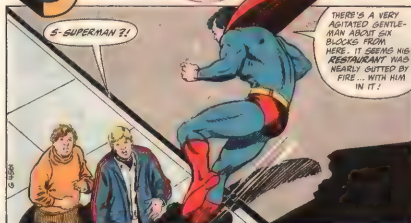






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L-3574

Mike,

So the Secret Six will continue despite the loss of two Mockingbirds in less than eight months. The obvious guess for Mockingbird's new identity is Rafael DiRienzi, but the charm of the Secret Six has always been in not knowing who is Mockingbird. Have you got a surprise cooked up for us?

Secret Six being the standard by which I judge all others, places sixth this issue.

Black Canary places fifth.

Blackhawk takes fourth. I take back what I said last week about the Nazis allowing a woman to run the show. If only two men slipped by the trials, they are likely to be low on the totem pole while the woman could be of any rank.

I know it's a little early for the McCarthy era to be in full bloom, but it would be interesting to see someone not trusting Blackhawk due to his association with known communists like Natalie.

Speedy takes third.

Green Lantern takes second. Way to go, Captain Atom. Now he wants to stay!

First this week goes to the Letters Page! Blackhawk in his own mag! Deadman mini-series! Green Lantern back where he belongs! My name in print! Terrific!

Ray Rizer

422 Oak

Elwood, KS 66024-0026

Glad to see the letter column placed so high in your vote, Ray, though it probably won't get its own book.

You're correct in observing that communists were almost as unpopular as comic books were in the late '40s and early '50s. In fact, comics and comics are the stuff of Marty Pasko's first storyline for the first issue of **BLACKHAWK**. To find out how he makes those elements connect, join him and Rick Burchett for that debut issue.

Dear Mike and Brian,

A brief review (I mean it this time) and voting on the features in **ACTION COMICS WEEKLY** #630.

Number One with a bullet: **Superman**! Roger Stern's story may be moving a bit slowly, but the Swenderson art is a joy every time. Also a nice cover by John Severin (his first official Superman job, I believe).

A distant second is the **Secret Six**. Martin Pasko acquitted himself well enough on the script. The art by Frank

Springer and Frank McLaughlin was quite good.

The current **Green Lantern** storyline puts in third place. Actually the slugfest between GL and Captain Atom is no great shakes, except that GL loses in his own feature. The whole thing is just average.

The **Nightwing & Speedy** (which should be credited to Speedy alone) attempts much with its Northern Ireland storyline. The problem is hard to define here; maybe it's that one can't believe Roy Harper would be so careless about his identity, or that it is hard to figure out which group is on what side of the "war." Tom Mandrake's art comes off okay.

Blackhawk is trying to stay within the new boundaries that Howard Chaykin set, but it's still in a book that tries to sell to a general audience. One problem dates back to the mini-series: the anti-Red furor did not exist during World War II and while it was starting to exist during the timeframe of the current series (which appears to be 1947) it hadn't gotten to the point where a former member of the Communist party as Natalie Gurdin Reed would be a pariah. (Oops, this isn't staying brief!) Still, the artwork by Rick Burchett looks fine.

In sixth and last place, the bottom of the barrel: **Black Canary**. If there is a plot, it's been kept from the reader. Thanks to the too murky artwork of Randy DuBurke and Pablo Marcos, it is nearly impossible to know who any of the players are.

Hurricane Heeran

15908 Sherman Way #5

Van Nuys, CA 91406

Don't worry, you kept things brief enough, Hurricane. Of course, now we have to downgrade you to Tropical Storm Heeran. I'm afraid. Sorry.

Dear Editor,

I really hate to end things on down notes, so here are my rankings, in reverse order, for **ACW** #632.

#6—**Speedy** (or **Nightwing**, whatever you're calling it now). Read my lips: NO MORE TRICK ARROWS. The same goes for miraculous bow shots I know, I know, "this is comics," but trick arrows are annoying, as is having an archer who never misses even the most difficult shots. If you want lessons on how to write good bow-and-arrow stories, try reading **Green Arrow**. Mike Grell does a

fantastic job writing that book.

#5—**Black Canary**. I'm enjoying the art, but the story at times eludes me. Sharon Wright does not seem to take well to the eight-page format. Still, the book has promise.

#4—**Superman**. Unlike some others, I've been enjoying the two-page Sunday comics format. I feel it's taken too much flak because it's only two pages. Just because it's short doesn't mean it's bad. Of course, that doesn't stop me from drooling in anticipation of a George Perez **Superman**.

#3—**Phantom Stranger**. I wasn't too wild about last year's mini-series, but I've really come to like him. Paul Kupperberg really captures the essence of his character. Did he write any PS stories before last year?

#2—**Green Lantern**. What can I say? I enjoy the character, the plot, and the art. I'm looking forward to the new series. I just hope you keep the same team on it. What format will the new series be in?

#1—**Blackhawk**. Chaykin made me enjoy the character, and Grell made me love it. When Martin Pasko first came on, I thought the series took a nose dive. He was writing it too much like he wrote the **Secret Six** and he seemed to forget that there was a main character in this series. But like all good writers, he improved as he went along. Martin is on the edge of capturing perfectly what makes people love **Blackhawk**. He is bringing back the sexual tension between **Blackhawk** and his leading lady. That (and Rick's wonderful art) is what makes this series unique. Keep it up, guys, and I'll never miss an issue of the new **Blackhawk** book!

Well, that's all for this week. Four good series, one almost, and only one icky series. Seems pretty good to me. See you later!

Matthew J. Daube

50 Scarborough Road

Manchester, CT 06040 5431

Oddly enough, Matt, Mike Grell himself addresses the very question of trick arrows when he scripts the **Emerald Archer's SECRET ORIGINS** appearance in that comic's 38th issue. Check it out. **Speedy's in there, too.**

Dear Mike and Brian,

Please forgive Phil Rhein for not liking the **Phantom Stranger**. I'm a big fan of that mysterious man and I can't wait for his four-part! Regrettably, as far as this ballot goes, I can't get much more

enthusiastic than that. Just when I was convinced that I knew which series I liked least in No. 630, the next story pushed it up a notch. Well, as Mendes-France did not say, "Lire, c'est choisir." This was how I ranked the six stories:

1) **Blackhawk**—The last and the best Splendid Eisnerish art from Burchett by his lonesome, with the Pesky One scripting humorously (Maurice catching Jan with his pants off, Truman's advisers passing the buck), historically (Natalie's run-in with Hardesty and her fears for a homecoming, the mention of LSD) and just plain well. After its predecessors, "Mr. Blackhawk Goes to Washington" restored my faith in the anthology format.

2) **Green Lantern**—Certain artists get linked to a strip and GL will always belong to Kane and Adams (sounds Biblical, doesn't it?). In recent weeks, I'm tempted to add Mark Bright's name to the list, for his depiction of the Emerald Crusader is absolutely magnificent. The fight sequences in "Will" were wonderful and the recuperating alien of page 4 was not far behind. Unfortunately, the Lantern/Atom fight was basically just a fight; the debate—what do we do with this would-be Randy Vindicator?—took a backseat and what did come through was warmed-over from earlier installments. While Atom bested GL, Hal at least conceded that the Captain had a point ... it's things like that that will make me buy the new monthly series (gee, was it only a year and a half ago that I read only three DC titles all told?).

3) **Superman**—Sure, the Man of Steel deserves more space, but Roger, Curt, and Murphy use their two pages so well that I'm content with what Supes does get. Interesting that our hero picks up a force and credits a "somewhat" rather than a "something." Hope he's not being premature there.

4) **Secret Six**—Harper Lee said it's a sin to kill a mockingbird, and you've killed two in twenty-four chapters! That's bad enough, but the wrap-up was worse. I wanted to know more about the seven missions the original team undertook, or at least why Carlo didn't reveal his secret to Rafael well before he did (I'm also going nuts trying to figure out how the orphaned Rafael is going to get his medication with Durant and his father dead.) The Six are free, there's no indication as to when—or if—the series will resume, and a third Mockingbird is on a sleeping monitor's screen. Did you just want to end things after twenty years? No comprende, it's a riddle, as the song goes.

5) **Black Canary**—There are a lot of shadows in "Knock 'Em Dead," and most of them are well used. Those on page 5 of Part 7, however, are merely silly, if we know who's speaking why draw him as if he's a criminal mastermind hiding his identity? I was pleased that Sharon Wright brought in Li Cameron's daughter (she of the small but critical role in GA No. 2—free plug Mike and Mike!), but her captions befuddled me, was the author speaking, or was a character? Why does this feel like bad Wild Dog? I honestly can't say I'm

looking forward to showtime.

6) **Nightwing and Speedy**—Hey, maybe you're playing a game here. Remember how Hawkman always snuck into a panel of All-Star Squadron, be it in an overhead montage or in a newspaper headline? Are you doing the same thing with Nightwing, who hasn't turned up in the feature he has first billing in since Chapter 11? He's hiding in a picture, or in a flame, or

Okay, okay, I'm being moronic, for which I apologize. You really do have a good, pertinent subject here, one in which there simply is no easy answer. It's something Speedy doesn't fit into, however—as Moira says, he doesn't "know a thing about life here"—and it's not something he thought about when he left the U.S. We need a perspective on these Troubles; Moira is fine as far as she goes, but she's not one to set the F.O.E. and Sanas quaking, is she? Nor, I fear, is Speedy. We need someone with more authority, more impact, more brains. In short, we need **NIGHTWING!** And we're supposed to have him, but we don't. Get your butt over to the six counties, Grayson!

Erin go brag and gah sayeree hees awerd, gentleman. And bring on the Phantom Stranger!

Charles J. Sperling
37-15 Parsons Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11354

.....

Okay, that's it, my last **ACTION WEEKLY** letter column. Next week—ACW's last—Mike Gold will be here to drape the crepe and say our sayonaras. I'll be around DC somewhere—THE SHADOW, for instance, 42 weeks, yow!

NEXT ISSUE, The Big Finale! A book-length crossover starring Green Lantern, Nightwing, Deadman, and a fella named Kent. The Elliot S. Maggin script is illustrated by an amazing array of artistic talent that combines the great pencilers of yesterday and the hot new inkers of today. Check out this roster.



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So go on, get outta here, I'll be fine, don't worry about me (sniff)

'Bye—

—Brian Augustyn

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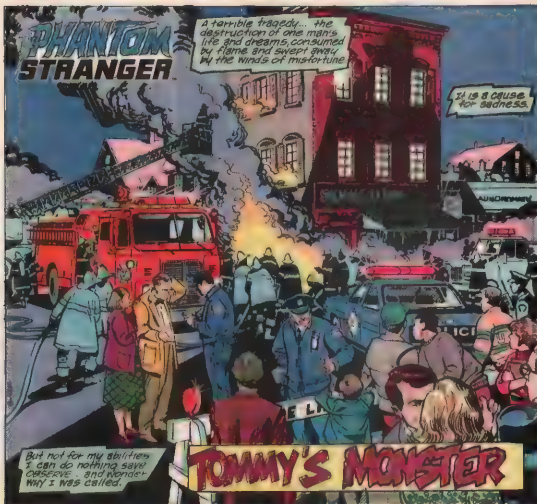
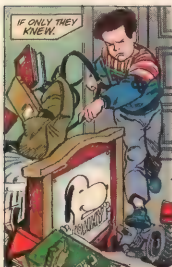
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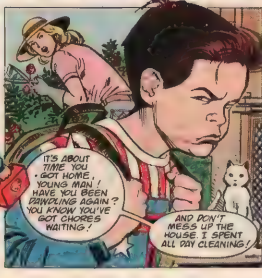
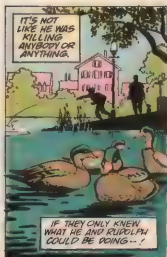
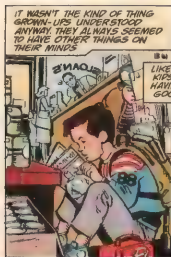
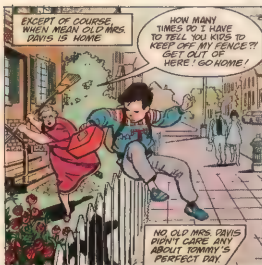
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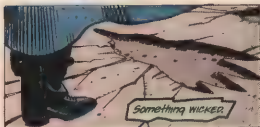
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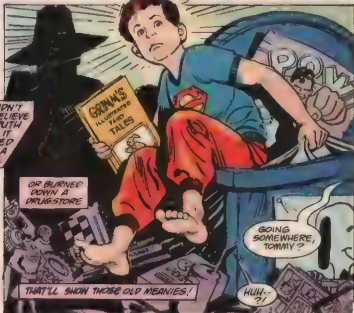
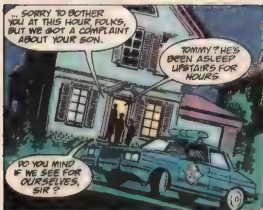
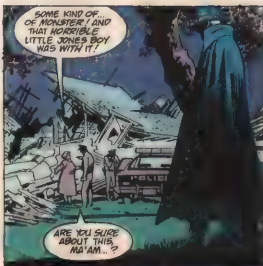
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THOOOM! THOOOOOM!









TOMMY!

THIS GROWN-UP'S
DIFFERENT SOMEHOW...
BUT ALSO THE SAME.
HE DOESN'T WANT TO
LISTEN. WE JUST WANTS
TO TALK AT HIM.



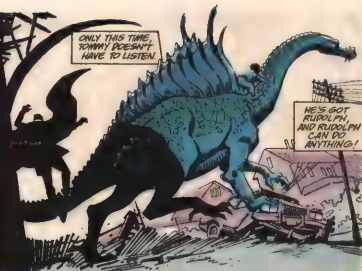
HA HA HA HA!
C'MON, RUDOLPH--
HE CAN'T CATCH
YOU!



YOU'RE
THE BEST,
RUDOLPH... HEY!
HOW DID HE GET
OVER THERE??

QUITTA
THE WAY,
MISTER! YOU'RE
GONNA GET
RUN OVER!

YOU DO NOT
WANT TO HURT
ANYONE, TOMMY.
I WISH ONLY TO
SPEAK WITH
YOU!



ONLY THIS TIME,
TOMMY DOESN'T
HAVE TO LISTEN.

HE'S GOT
RUDOLPH,
AND RUDOLPH
CAN DO
ANYTHING!



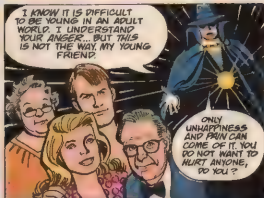
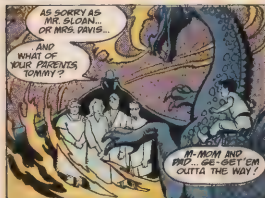
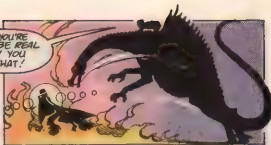
NO YOU
DON'T! YOU'RE
JUST GONNA GET
ME IN TROUBLE!

I'M NOT GONNA
MAKE RUDOLPH STOP,
EITHER! GO AHEAD,
RUDOLPH--

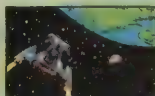


FWHOOO!
...SIC 'EM!

YOU
WILL LEARN,
MY YOUNG
FRIEND THAT
YOUR EVERY WISH
WILL NOT ALWAYS
BE GRANTED.



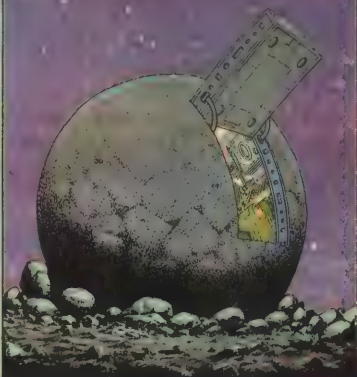
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TOM HARKINS
LETTERER

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INTERVIEWS TAKEOVER!

chapter
6

IN THE BOARD ROOM OF ONE OF THE BIGGEST CORPORATIONS IN THIS BIG CITY, A MEETING OF THE COMPANY'S DIRECTORS IS IN FULL SWING--

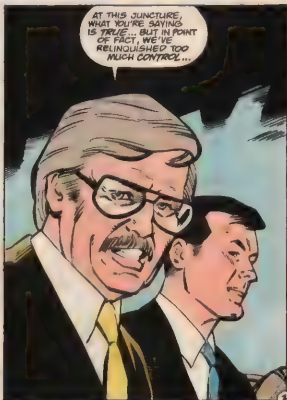
AS YOU CAN SEE, OUR NET INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS IS UP TEN PER CENT THIS YEAR.

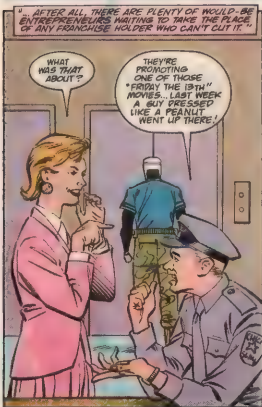


CLEARLY, OUR DECISION TO MOVE OUT OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE SECTOR AND INTO FRANCHISES WAS A GOOD ONE. THIS SHIFTS THE EMPHASIS TO INVESTING PROFITS THAT THE FRANCHISES PASS ON TO US...



AT THIS JUNCTURE, WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE... BUT IN POINT OF FACT, WE'VE RELINQUISHED TOO MUCH CONTROL...





WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON WITH THIS "FRANCHISE," ANYWAY? IS SOME RIVAL ACTION MOVING IN, OR WHAT?

I ADMIT I'M NOT SATISFIED WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE "POSSE" IN QUESTION, BUT...

"YOU'RE NOT SATISFIED? LORD, MAN, PEOPLE ARE GETTING SHOT UP AND IT'S NOT THE KIND OF SHOOTING UP THAT MAKES US PROFITS!"

EXCUSE ME, SIR...

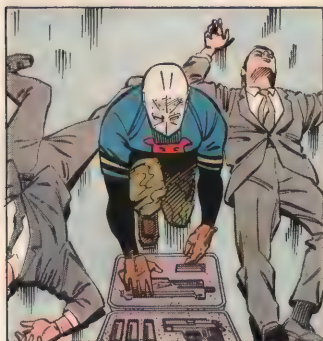
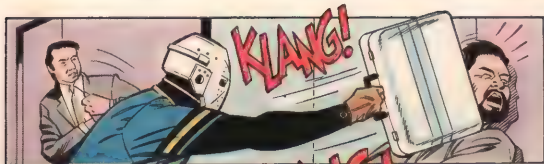
I THINK MR. LEONE WAS A POINT...

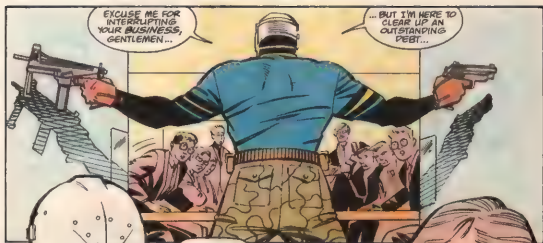
I SURE AS HELL DO! WE MUST RESCIND THESE FRANCHISE OPERATIONS TO JAMAICANS AND ORIENTALS AND OTHER COLORED TRASH, AND GO BACK TO VERTICAL INTEGRATION...

"WE SHOULD CONTROL THE ENTIRE PRODUCTION AND SALES PROCESS, TOP TO BOTTOM--LIKE IN THE OLD DAYS..."

WHO ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?

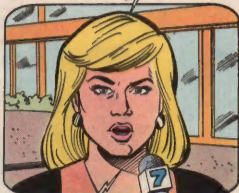
GET A LOAD OF THIS...







POLICE ARE CALLING THIS THE WORST GANG-RELATED KILLING IN CHICAGO SINCE THE ST. VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE.



BUT WHAT SEPARATES THIS EVENT FROM AL CAPOONE'S FAMOUS ASSAULT ON BUGS MORAN IS THE MOTIVATION: EYEWITNESSES PLACE THE VIGILANTE WILD DOG AT THE SCENE.



IS THIS WILD DOG'S FIRST MAJOR FORAY OUTSIDE THE QUAD CITIES? THIS IS SUSAN KING REPORTING ON THE SCENE IN CHICAGO.

IT HAS TO END, JACK.

IT'S OVER, HANG IT UP, OR WE'LL COME FORWARD...



ANYTHING YOU SAY, GUYS... AT LEAST, TILL THE NEXT TIME ONE OF YOU HAS DIRTY WORK THAT NEEDS DOING...

THE END?



A night of
murder...
a lifetime
of REVENGE

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CAN YOU SOLVE LUCKY'S CHARM CHALLENGE?

Lucky needs help finding six marshmallow charms hidden somewhere in the picture. Find the shapes, then match them up with the colors below!
(But the clover on Lucky's hat doesn't count!)

Pink _____

Orange _____

Yellow _____

Green _____

Blue _____

Purple _____



TWO WAYS TO WIN IN THE RING...



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